



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## ***New Zealand – Earthquake***

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

March 4, 2011

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated February 25, 2011.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On March 3, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key announced the conclusion of the search and rescue phase of the earthquake response, formally shifting the focus of the response to recovery.
- As of March 4, the Christchurch earthquake had resulted in 163 confirmed deaths, according to the Government of New Zealand (GoNZ) Ministry of Civil Defense and Emergency Management (MCDEM). More than 200 people remained missing; however, the number of missing individuals likely includes some or all of the confirmed deaths. International forensics teams continue to assist local authorities to identify victims.
- On March 1 at 1251 hours local time, New Zealand residents observed a moment of silence to honor the one-week anniversary of the February 22 earthquake. Members of the USAR team from the Los Angeles County Fire Department attended a ceremony at the Christchurch Cathedral to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the disaster. Other USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) members attended a simultaneous service at the Canterbury Television building site.
- On February 28, New Zealand Prime Minister Key announced a six-week earthquake support package for Christchurch businesses and workers. The package provides a total of approximately \$90.2 million to assist affected employers to continue paying wages, as well as individuals who lost jobs as a result of the disaster.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Confirmed Deaths	163	GoNZ – March 4, 2011
Estimated Missing Persons	200	GoNZ – March 4, 2011

### **FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

**USAID/OFDA Assistance to New Zealand..... \$1,022,440**

**Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to New Zealand..... \$1,022,440**

### **CONTEXT**

- On February 22 at 1251 hours local time, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck 6.2 miles southeast of Christchurch—New Zealand’s second largest urban area with a population of approximately 390,000—at a depth of 3.1 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The earthquake caused extensive damage to Christchurch city center, trapping people under collapsed buildings and resulting in an unverified number of deaths and injuries.
- On February 22, U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand David Huebner declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response to the GoNZ’s request for U.S. USAR support, USAID deployed a USAID/DART, including a 74-person USAR team from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, to support search and rescue efforts. USAID also activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to support the USAID/DART and coordinate the U.S. Government humanitarian response to the earthquake.

#### ***Urban Search and Rescue***

- The U.S. USAR team has conducted numerous highly technical search operations since the earthquake, including in the Christchurch Cathedral and Forsyth Barr buildings. The U.S. USAR team was able to access previously unsearched spaces to verify that buildings did not contain survivors or human remains. Structural engineers from the U.S. USAR team also provided expertise to New Zealand city planners regarding the stability of damaged buildings, as well as strategies for building demolition.
- USAID has authorized the transfer of USAR equipment, valued at approximately \$420,000, from the Los Angeles County USAR team to the New Zealand Fire Service. The transfer—which includes sophisticated detection and rescue equipment—will allow New Zealand’s USAR teams to replace equipment lost during the earthquake, as well as increase domestic search and rescue capacity. U.S. USAR team members continue to train New Zealand counterparts to use the equipment.
- The U.S. USAR team plans to transition from a 74-member heavy team to a 43-member medium team on March 6 due to decreased need for USAR support. The remaining team will retain specialized engineering and other

technical capacities.

### ***Infrastructure and Public Services***

- As of March 4, one of three welfare centers continued to provide 24-hour services, including temporary shelter, to people displaced by the earthquake, according to the MCDEM. In place of welfare centers, the MCDEM is establishing recovery assistance centers to provide longer-term services to earthquake-affected individuals, including medical, housing, employment, mental health, and nutritional services and advice. The MCDEM plans to open six recovery assistance centers in Christchurch's most affected eastern suburbs by March 5.
- On March 2, USAID/DART members assessed humanitarian conditions in earthquake-affected suburbs and nearby Redcliffs and Sumner towns. In the suburbs, USAID/DART staff observed significant structural damage and reconstruction needs but limited humanitarian concerns, which continue to be addressed by the GoNZ. Lyttelton port was operating at reduced capacity, and local residents reported that the earthquake did not cause significant food, fuel, or other supply shortages.
- On March 3, the GoNZ started collaborating with commercial cellular phone companies to send text messages to Christchurch residents containing critical information regarding the availability and locations of GoNZ-provided emergency services, according to the MCDEM.
- As of March 4, repair crews had restored running water to approximately 78 percent of houses in Christchurch, according to the Christchurch City Council. The main sewage plant for metropolitan Christchurch is operational, although at a reduced capacity for processing raw sewage. The GoNZ continues to install portable toilets in areas where repair crews have yet to restore water and sanitation services.
- As of March 4, local power companies had restored power to approximately 95 percent of houses in Christchurch, according to the Christchurch City Council. In suburbs where power had yet to be restored, a local electricity and gas company provided free gas to enable affected individuals areas to cook.

### **USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEW ZEALAND**

<b>FY 2011</b>			
<b><i>Implementing Partner</i></b>	<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Amount</i></b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
New Zealand Red Cross	Emergency Shelter Support	Christchurch	\$100,000
	Logistics Costs		\$848,500
	USAID/DART Support Costs		\$73,940
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$1,022,440</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEW ZEALAND IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$1,022,440</b>

<sup>1</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 4, 2011.

### **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in New Zealand may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)